THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 3, 1802.

Letters written during an Excurſion through France to Geneva.

LETTER III.

(Continued from Page 330.)

Paris, December 9.

YOU have often laughed at me for being ſo much of an old bachelor: I ſuppoſe there is ſomething very *orderly* about me; but this ſomething has its uſe, my good friend, and I do not feel diſpoſed to part with it juſt now, but ſhall proceed in my old-faſhioned orderly manner to anſwer your letter of the 30th ult. as well as I can.

"Are not the French a nation of cannibals, "that each other eat?" No, indeed; nor of

———Men whoſe heads
Do grow beneath their ſhoulders.

I dare ſay your obſervation is a juſt one, that the people of France were, during the war, called after the names of ſo many terrifying monſters, that many a grandam (of both ſexes and all ages) really believed that ſome preternatural metamorphoſe had taken place among them, and that a man with the paws of a lion and the tuſks of a tyger is no uncommon thing here!

Upon my word, you are very unreaſonable in your inquiries: we have not been here a fortnight, but you expect as much information about the Pariſians as if we had lived here a twelvemonth! Our friend B——, who, as you very well know, is by no means a careleſs or an unprofitable obſerver of men's manners, has mingled among various ranks of people in this metropolis, and has, by his amiable diſpoſition and excelling talents,

ſecured to himſelf a circle of literary acquaintance, among which he paſſes his time in an agreeable and inſtructive manner. To him, more than to our own obſervation, which of neceſſity has hitherto had but few and inſufficient opportunities of adding to our ſtock of knowledge, are we indebted for whatever we have learnt about the domeſtic character of the French.

No one from the general behaviour of the people, could have ſuſpected them capable of having committed, or even of having ſuffered the commiſſion of thoſe horrible enormities which have ſtained, with ſo indelible a die, the hiſtory of their revolution. A man cannot walk the ſtreets of London for a ſingle week without being diſguſted at ſome brutal battle between two draymen, porters, coal-heavers, hackney-coachmen, &c. &c. if he is in the habit of attending the theatres and other places of public amuſement, he muſt always calculate upon being interrupted by ſome noiſy drunken fellows, who either quarrel among themſelves, or quarrel with the performers; and if his lodgings are unfortunately near the haunts of thoſe unhappy females who roam the ſtreets at night, he muſt expect to have his repoſe not unfrequently broken in upon by the looſe and riotous orgies of them and their paramours, or by the noiſy rencounters which often take place between them and the watchmen.

Such diſturbances are unknown at Paris: B——, you know, has reſided here between two and three years, during which time, he tells us, that he has never ſeen a ſerious and perſonal quarrel between two Frenchmen! On the contrary, the lower claſſes behave to each other with a ſurpriſing degree of civility—a degree of civility by no means obſervable among the ſame claſs of people in England. The filles-de-joie are infinitely leſs obtruſive and rude here than they are in London.

At the theatres, I underſtand, the tranquillity of the audience is very ſeldom interrupted: people go for the wiſe purpoſe of being pleaſed, and with the good-humoured diſpoſition to be ſatisfied; expreſſions of diſſatisfaction are therefore rare. Theſe places of amuſement are doubtleſs much indebted for their tranquillity to the national ſobriety of the French; the delicious wines of Burgundy and Bourdeaux are light and innocuous; theſe qualities belong to the many others, all of which, it ſhould ſeem, are uſed with ſingular moderation. I have not yet ſeen an inſtance of intoxication, or of any thing which approaches it: you well know that it is not the cuſtom here, as it is in England, to ſit round the table after dinner, and drink wine, bottle after bottle, and bottle after that: in France, the deſſert is brought on with the cheeſe, and all are taken away together; and when the cloth is removed, the company riſe and take coffee.

Laſt night (but I hear you ſay, this is a little *out of order*, my good friend) we went to the French opera, and took the thankleſs

thankleſs unneceſſary trouble of dreſſing as we ſhould have done in England! The houſe ſeems to be between the ſizes of Covent-garden and Drury-lane: the decorations are rich, but the gilding is tarniſhed: the band very full and good. The action of the performers is highly animated and expreſſive, the muſic and the ſinging well ſupported, and the ſcenery extremely grand. Theſe united powers were not loſt upon us; we acknowledged their influence, and returned home perfectly ſatisfied, although neither Veſtris nor Talma had exhibited before us

You aſk me to deſcribe our mode of living here, the expences of it, &c. &c. On our arrival we were of courſe welcomed by the maitre-d'hotel with a politeneſs and ſincerity which were not to be queſtioned: one ſet of rooms only was vacant in this ſpacious building: they are on the third ſtory, and conſiſt of three ſmall bed-rooms, a dining-room, with an anti-chamber for our domeſtique, and that neceſſary evil the laquais-de-place. For this accommodation we pay five louis and a half per week: we have no attendance whatever but that of the fille-de-chambre, who in the courſe of the day does ſpare time to make our beds. We have our breakfaſts, dinners, &c. from a reſtaurateur in the Palais-royal, who for four livres and a half per head (3s. 9d. Engliſh money) ſupplies us with as handſome and well-covered a table as any gentleman will deſire.

So you really perſiſt in believing that proviſions are as dear in Paris as they are in London; ſuch accounts have been induſtriouſly circulated, but I thought they had long ſince been ſufficiently refuted to deſtroy your belief in them. The laſt beef-ſteak that I ate in London coſt fourteen-pence the pound of ſixteen ounces; perhaps a private family who ſent to market may purchaſe beef there for a ſhilling a pound. It might purchaſe beef here equally good for ten ſous the pound of eighteen ounces: mutton, I believe, is about eight ſous, pork and veal at a proportionate price. The Pariſians are complaining of the high price of bread: it is at this time either fifteen or ſixteen ſous, that is to ſay, ſeven-pence-halfpenny or eightpence Engliſh money, the quartern loaf.* Wine may be conſidered as the ſtaple beverage among the French: it is cheap even at Paris: B——tells us that a ſtock of Vin de Bourgogne, of fair average quality, may be laid in at about ſix-pence-halfpenny or ſeven-pence the bottle: I think its price to us has varied in different places from two to four livres! What an immenſe profit to the aubergiſtes and the reſtaurateurs! This latter is a modern appellation, to which the ancient one, traiteur, has yielded; the

* On our return to Paris, after an abſence of ſomething leſs than a month, the price of bread had riſen to ten-pence the quartern loaf, and remained ſo when we left it.

hiſtory of this change is a curious one:—It is ſaid that between thirty and forty years ago, a fellow who probably had not received his culinary education in the regular manner, and was of courſe regarded by the doctors in cookery, the traiteurs, as a quack in the profeſſion, found it neceſſary, as quacks very often do, to puff a little. This impudent empiric, in order to invite paſſengers, by ſtimulating their curioſity, if he could not their appetite, placed the following inſcription over his door "Venite ad me, omnes qui ſtomacho laboratis, et ego reſtaurabo vos." Such is the reputed origin of the word reſtaurateur.

Fuel is dear, and that ſeems to be almoſt the only neceſſary of life which is ſo: what proportion it bears to the price of fuel in England, I know not; there it varies in different counties, according to their contiguity to coal-mines, or the facility with which coals can be conveyed to them. The price of fuel in different parts of this kingdom, or this republic rather, is of courſe regulated by ſimilar circumſtances: it is ſaid to be exceedingly high, however, every where, nor is it to be wondered at if we conſider the immenſe, I was going to ſay, the immeaſurable, ſuperfices of land requiſite for the production of wood in ſufficient abundance to ſupply the conſumption of ſuch a population as that of France. How muſt the foreſts groan during a hard winter, if ſeveral thouſand axes are at work to thin them in ſeaſons even of ordinary ſeverity! Where are the coal mines of France? Of what quality is the article, in what abundance is it to be procured, and with what facility can it be conveyed to the diſtant provinces? If the conſumption is more rapid than the growth of fuel, how are the French to be ſupplied when their foreſts are cut down?

(To be continued.)

Abſtract of the Bill for amending and rendering more effectual an Act made in the Twenty-firſt Year of the Reign of King Henry VIII. entitled, "Spiritual Perſons abridged from having Pluralities of Livings, and from taking of Fermes, &c."

THE firſt clauſe enacts, that from the paſſing of the bill every ſpiritual perſon who ſhall, before that period, have incurred any pecuniary penalty under the act of Henry the Eighth, and againſt whom no action has been brought in reſpect thereof, ſhall be indemnified and diſcharged from the ſame; and that all contracts made by ſpiritual perſons before the paſſing of the preſent act, agreeably to its ſpirit, ſhall be good and valid in law.

The

The ſecond clauſe provides, that any perſon againſt whom any original writ or action ſhall have been ſued out, or proſecuted for any pecuniary penalty incurred under the ſaid act of Henry VIII. may apply to the courts of judges to diſcontinue ſuch action or information, upon the payment of the coſts incurred up to the time of application, to be taxed in the uſual way.

The third clauſe enacts, that part of the act of Henry VIII. which impoſes a penalty upon any ſpiritual perſons taking lands, &c. to farm, or underletting the ſame, or who buy or ſell grain or cattle for profit, ſhall be repealed, ſo far as relates to every ſpiritual perſon not holding any ſpiritual dignity or benefice, or any parſonage, vicarage, donative, or perpetual curacy, or ſerving a ſtipendiary curacy. It is, however, provided, that nothing contained in this act ſhall authorize any ſuch ſpiritual perſon to buy or ſell any cattle or corn in perſon, in any market, fair, or other public place of ſale.

The fourth clauſe enacts, that it ſhall be lawful for any ſpiritual perſon holding any parſonage, vicarage, &c. and not having thereon any houſe of reſidence, or whoſe reſidence ſhall be legally diſpenſed with, to take to ferm it for any term of years, or at will, any meſſuage, manſion, or dwelling-houſe, with or without orchards, gardens, &c. for his reſidence, although not in any city or town. It ſhall alſo be lawful for any clergyman holding any parſonage, &c. and not having thereon any ſufficient and fit houſe of reſidence, by the conſent of the biſhop of the dioceſe, to take to ferm in like manner any meſſuage, manſion, or dwelling-houſe, for his reſidence, although not in any city or town; and, in caſe he has not any ſufficient glebe or demeſne lands annexed to his benefice or cure, he may take to ferm any lands, &c. that may appear to the biſhop proper to be taken for his better ſupport, without being ſubject or liable to any penalties. Provided always that nothing in this act ſhall be conſtrued to extend to authorize any ſuch clergyman to take any meſſuage or premiſes for reſidence out of the pariſh of ſuch parſonage, &c. unleſs by conſent of the biſhop as aforeſaid.

The fifth clauſe provides, that it ſhall be lawful for any ſuch clergyman to occupy or ferm any lands, &c. leaſed or granted for life by any body politic, corporate or collegiate, provided the conſent of the biſhop of the dioceſe is obtained thereto.

The ſixth clauſe allows all ſuch clergymen to buy to ſell again for profit all kinds of cattle, provided they do not buy or ſell them in perſon in places of public ſale.

The ſeventh clauſe provides, that any ſuch clergyman may occupy, in ferm of the leaſe, a grant of any perſon, the impropriate, parſonage, or any part thereof, of the pariſh of which he ſhall be perpetual vicar, &c. without being ſubject to any penalty.

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The eighth clauſe enacts, that no leaſe of any glebe or demeſne lands, or any tythes belonging to any clergyman whatever, as annexed to any dignity or benefice, &c. and leaſed to ſuch clergyman, ſhall be made void; nor ſhall the incumbent for the ſame forfeit any profit of the ſaid benefice, by reaſon of non-reſidence, in any caſe where he ſhall be exempt from any pecuniary penalties on account of ſuch non-reſidence.

The ninth clauſe enacts, that ſo much of the act of Henry VIII. as impoſes the penalty of 10l. on any clergyman not reſiding on one of his dignities, prebends, or benefices, but abſenting himſelf wilfully for the ſpace of one month together, or for two months, to be accounted at ſeveral times in one year, ſhall be repealed; and that hereafter every beneficed clergyman who ſhall without ſufficient cauſe, or without legal licence, preſcribed by former acts, wilfully abſent himſelf for the ſpace of three months together, or to be accounted at ſeveral times in any one year, and make his reſidence at any other place for ſuch time, ſhall, when ſuch abſence exceeds ſuch period, and does not exceed ſix months, forfeit one fourth of the annual value of the parſonage, &c. from which he ſhall ſo abſent himſelf; and when ſuch abſence exceeds ſix months and does not exceed eight months, one third of the annual value; and when it exceeds eight months, one moiety of the annual value; and when for a whole year, three fourths of the annual value, to be recovered by action of debt, information, &c. one third part of every ſuch penalty to go to the informer, together with coſts of ſuit, and the remainder to go in aid of the bounty of Queen Anne, for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy.

The tenth clauſe exempts from the penalties of non-reſidence clergymen officiating as chaplains of different deſcriptions, &c.

The eleventh clauſe provides, that no penalty incurred by reaſon of any non-reſidence, ſhall be levied by execution againſt the body of any clergyman who ſhall continue to hold any living out of the profits of which the ſame can be levied by ſequeſtration.

The twelfth clauſe makes it lawful for the ſeveral biſhops, in certain caſes, to grant licences in writing with reſpect to the reſidence or non-reſidence of clergymen on their benefices, for the purpoſe of exempting them from the pecuniary penalties of this act.

The thirteenth clauſe deſcribes the caſes in which it ſhall be lawful for the biſhops to grant the above licences, among which are the illneſs of the clergyman, or of his wife or children, and the want of a fit place of reſidence in the pariſh. Any perſon thinking himſelf aggrieved by the refuſal of the biſhop to grant ſuch licence, may appeal to the archbiſhop of the province,

who

who is to cauſe the neceſſary enquiry to be made into the nature of the caſe.

The fourteenth clauſe provides, that all ſuch licences ſhall be entered in a book kept for the purpoſe, and approved by the archbiſhop; and the fifteenth enacts that all grants or revocations of licences ſhall be filed in the regiſtry of the dioceſe.

The ſixteenth clauſe enacts, that all ſuch licences are to be pleaded in bar of any actions that may be brought by informers, or others, for non-reſidence.

The ſeventeenth clauſe provides, that nothing in this act ſhall be conſtrued to extend to repeal any canonical cenſures, to be pleadable in bar of any proceedings that ſhall hereafter be inſtituted in any eccleſiaſtical court.

The eighteenth clauſe enables biſhops to iſſue monitions to clergymen holding livings, to reſide upon them, and perform the duties thereof, to which returns are to be made within thirty days. In caſe of non-compliance upon oath, if required, the profits of the livings to be ſequeſtered until the monitions are complied with, or ſufficient reaſons for non-reſidence ſtated. Appeals to the archbiſhop of the province are allowed.

The nineteenth clauſe provides, that if any clerk ſhall continue under ſuch ſequeſtration for the ſpace of three years, the parſonage, &c. in relation whereto the ſaid non-reſidence ſhall have been committed, ſhall become *ipſo facto* void, and the patron ſhall preſent another clerk thereto.

The twentieth clauſe relates to the regulations of the penalties and forfeitures above deſcribed.

The twenty-firſt clauſe enacts, that every clergyman, on being inſtituted to a living, ſhall take the following oath, before the biſhop of the dioceſe, viz.

"I, A. B. will duly reſide in my parſonage, vicarage, donative, or perpetual curacy of , as the caſe may be, unleſs ſuch reſidence is or ſhall be legally diſpenſed with."

The twenty-ſecond and laſt clauſe provides that nothing contained in this act ſhall be conſtrued to extend to alter or affect his majeſty's royal prerogative in the granting of diſpenſations for non-reſidence upon benefices, as the ſame exiſts by law at preſent.

CURIOUS ANECDOTE.

THE city of Ptolemais, in Syria, was beſieged by the French and Venetians, and it was ready to fall into their hands, when the ſoldiers beheld a pigeon flying over them, with letters to the city; who thereupon ſet up ſo ſudden and great a ſhout, that down fell the poor airy poſt with her letter: being read, it was found that the ſultan had therein ſent them word, that "he would

would be with them, with an army ſufficient to raiſe the ſiege;" and that "they might expect his arrival in three days." The Chriſtians having learnt this, ſent away the pigeon with others inſtead of the former, which were to this purpoſe: that "they ſhould ſee to their own ſafety, for that the ſultan had ſuch other affairs as rendered it impoſſible for him to come in to their ſuccour."

Theſe letters being received, the city was immediately ſurrendered. The ſultan performed his promiſe upon the third day; but perceiving how matters went, returned to his other employments.—*Sabel. Ex. l. 6. c. 6. p. 340.*

Abſtract of the Population of England and Wales, as lately delivered to the Members of the Houſe of Commons.

ENGLAND.

Inhabited Houſes.	*By how many Families occupied.*	*Uninhabited houſes.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total of Perſons.*
1,467,870	1,778,420	53,965	3,987,935	4,343,409	8,331,434

WALES.

108,053	118,503	3,511	257,178	284,368	541,546
Army,	-	-	-	-	198,331
Navy,	-	-	-	-	126,279
Seamen in regiſtered veſſels,			-	-	144,558
Convicts,	-	-	-	-	1,410

GRAND TOTAL.

1,575,923	1,896,723	57,476	4,715,711	4,627,867	9,343,558

The enumeration of Scotland is only delayed by the non-return of two of the remote counties, of which the returns are daily expected. It is, however, ſufficiently aſcertained from the returns already made, that Scotland contains nearly 1,700,000 inhabitants; and it is known, with ſufficient accuracy, that the population of Ireland rather exceeds 4,000,000.

We may therefore ſafely affirm, that the population of the united kingdom exceeds 15,000,000; and it appears from the collection of all the pariſh regiſters of England and Wales, throughout the laſt century (under the Population Act,) that our

population has increaſed with very accelerated rapidity the nearer we approach the preſent time.

If to the population of the metropolis (864,000) the regiments of guards and militia in London, and the ſeamen on board the regiſtered veſſels in the River Thames, were added, it would undoubtedly exceed 900,000 ſouls; almoſt a tenth part of the population of England and Wales.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
London - -	393,369	471,476	864,845
Manchester - -	39,110	44,910	84,020
Liverpool - -	34,367	43,286	77,653
Birmingham - -	34,716	38,954	73,670
Briſtol - -	26,943	36,702	63,645
Leeds - -	25,504	27,658	53,162
Plymouth - -	18,016	25,178	43,194
Newcaſtle on Tyne, with Gateſhead, in the county of Durham	16,343	20,620	36,963
Norwich - -	15,810	21,044	36,854
Bath - -	11,441	19,759	31,200
Portſmouth - -	14,309	17,857	32,166
Sheffield - -	15,483	15,831	31,314
Hull - -	13,051	16,465	29,516
Exeter - -	7,314	10,084	17,398
York - -	7,018	9,127	16,145

CEREMONIAL *for the* PROCLAMATION *of* PEACE.

A Party of horſe guards to be drawn up about the gate of St. James's Palace, where the beadles and conſtables, and all the officers of the city of Weſtminſter attend.

The officers of arms; ſerjeants at arms, with their maces and collars; the ſerjeant trumpeter, with his mace and collar; the trumpets, drum major and drums, and the knight marſhal and his men aſſemble in the ſtable-yard, St. James's; and the officers of arms, being habited in their reſpective tabards, and mounted, a proceſſion is made from thence to the palace-gate in this order:

Knight Marſhal's Men, two and two.
Knight Marſhal.
Drums.
Drum Major.
Trumpets.
Serjeant Trumpeter.
Purſuivants.
Serjeants at Arms. { Heralds / Kings of Arms. } Serjeants at Arms.

Being come before the gate, the ſenior officer of arms preſent (attended on his left hand by the next in rank) is to read the proclamation aloud; which done, the officers of Weſtminſter join the proceſſion, which moves on to Charing Croſs in the following order:—

Horſe Guards, to clear the way.
Beadles of Weſtminſter, two and two, bare-headed, with ſtaves.
Conſtable of Weſtminſter, in like manner.
High Conſtable, with his Staff, on horſeback.
Officers of the High Bailiff of Weſtminſter, with white wands, on horſeback.
Clerk of the High Bailiff.
High Bailiff and Deputy Steward.
Horſe Guards.
Knight Marſhal's Men, two and two.
Knight Marſhal.
Drums.
Drum Major.
Trumpets.
Serjeant Trumpeter.
Purſuivants.

Horſe Guards, to flank the Proceſſion.

Serjeants at Arms. { Heralds / Kings of Arms. } Serjeants at Arms.

Horſe Guards, to flank the Proceſſion.

Horſe Guards.

At Charing Croſs, the officer of arms next in rank to him who read at St. James's, is to read the proclamation, looking towards Whitehall; that done, the proceſſion moves on to Temple-bar, the gates of which are ſhut, and the junior officer of arms, coming out of the rank between two trumpeters, preceded by two horſe guards to clear the way, rides up to the gate, and, after the trumpets have ſounded thrice, he knocks with a cane. Being aſked by the city marſhal from within, "Who comes there?" he replies, "The officers of arms, who demand entrance into the city to publiſh his majeſty's proclamation of peace." The gates being opened, he is admitted alone, and the gates ſhut again. The city marſhal, preceded by his officers, conducts him to the lord mayor, to whom he ſhews his majeſty's warrant, which his lordſhip having read, he returns, and gives directions to the city marſhal to open the gates, who attends him back thereto, and, on the officer of arms leaving him, ſays, "Sir, the gates are opened."

The trumpets and horſe guards being in waiting, conduct him to his place in the proceſſion, which then moves on into the city (the officers of Weſtminſter filing off and retiring as they come to Temple-bar,) and at Chancery lane end the proclamation is read a third time. Then, the city officers joining the proceſſion immediately after the officers of arms, it moves on to the end of

Wood-

Wood-ſtreet, where the croſs formerly ſtood in Cheapſide. After the proclamation has been read, the proceſſion moves on to the Royal Exchange, where it is read for the laſt time; and the proceſſion returns by the way of Gracechurch-ſtreet through Lombard-ſtreet.

The trumpets are to ſound thrice previous to, and immediately after each reading.

Obſervations on the Commerce between England and France.

THOSE who are of opinion that France will carry away our trade, dread the conſequences of the peace, and among the moſt terrible of theſe, the deſtruction of our trade. Upon what ground this apprehenſion is entertained, we cannot well comprehend; the deſtruction of our trade is no ſmall undertaking, and there is abundant reaſon to think that France is not only unequal to it, but that ſhe is too wiſe not to know it. In the midſt of our fears and alarms we attach too much conſequence to exterior acts; our merchants and manufacturers are, or affect to be, terribly alarmed at this moment about the prohibitions which have appeared in the French papers againſt ſeveral of our articles—prohibitions, which exiſted in the ſame degree from the peace of 1783, to the commercial treaty in 1786, and ſtill our goods found their way into France and every other part where they were prohibited. The reſtrictions in Spain on many articles were ſtill more ſevere, but all this could not exclude them. The plain fact is, that as long as we make a better and cheaper commodity, no prohibitory law will avail, and if we do not, no commercial treaty which could be formed would give a vent to our goods. If the French government in its wiſdom thinks it right to provide for a ſet of dependants by giving them places upon the frontiers, to receive the gratuities for permitting our goods to be clandeſtinely brought into their country, in preference to a fair and equitable treaty, we muſt meet it. France will undoubtedly endeavour to be our rival, but it is equally certain that ſhe is at preſent miſerably prepared for the competition.

Our accounts of the interior of France have not been of late years much to be depended on; but ſince the opening of intercourſe, we have been enabled to take a peep behind the gaudy curtain, which diſcovers ſymptoms very unfavourable to the ſpirit and vigour of commercial enterprize—poverty among the maſs of people, neglected agriculture, a ſtupor among the manufacturers, handicraftſmen, and mechanics; and above all, a general want of confidence between man and man, and a diſſoluteneſs of manners, and frivolity of diſpoſition, exceeding the extravagance and levity of all former times. Domeſtic com-

forts are known to few, and that claſs which is opulent, known by the ſignificant appellation of "les nouveaux riches," and for whoſe riches it might not be convenient to account, affords an inſtance of diſorganized ſociety and lapſe of principle, which we have no language to expreſs. Theſe men riot in luxury, and when they have expended what they poſſeſs, will again fall back into their primitive obſcurity. It is not from them that government can look for reſources, or trade for encouragement.

With reſpect to the want of capital, the fact is known and admitted, and naturally to be referred to that want of confidence which ever muſt diſtinguiſh a government perpetually toſſed with revolutions. This is evident in the high rate of money paid by perſons in trade, which is from eight to fifteen per cent. in general, and often twenty and twenty-five per cent. per annum. With this avowed diſtruſt of themſelves, how can it be well expected they ſhould have claims on the credit of other nations, or at leaſt in the degree that a nation enjoys that has not a flaw in its commercial character, and has been diſtinguiſhed by tranſactions which defy ſuſpicion or miſtruſt? France will be obliged to go to market with ready money, and without one of the greateſt reſources ſhe had before the war, which went to pay her debts in foreign countries, namely, the influx of wealth from St. Domingo; this alone exceeded three millions ſterling annually, and was more than the balance in her favour from her trade with all the world.

Her interior reſources of trade, as far as we are immediately concerned, are her manufactures, the renovation of which muſt be the work of long time and much induſtry, large capitals, internal ſecurity, mutual confidence, and every branch of order and regularity to which the revolution has been an enemy. What has happened in France may be repeated here. It requires only that we ſhall, from puſillanimity, throw our advantages into the hands of a rival; that we ſhall indulge idle fears until they become realities; that we encourage a diſcontented and factious ſpirit, abate our induſtry, and imbibe the folly and diſſipation we affect to dread. If true to ourſelves, if aſſiduous in employing our capital, our reſources, and our induſtry, as they have formerly been employed, how is it poſſible that the peace ſhould injure us, which affords ſecurity to our trade, gives it a larger diffuſion, and only admits the competition of a rival who has every thing to learn in which we are perfect?

ON CONDESCENSION.

CONDESCENSION, when found in company with greatneſs, inſtead of diminiſhing aught from the latter, gives to it an acceſſion of luſtre. Nothing more exalts than humility.

This

This is another paradox, founded in truth, and worthy attention. Affability in a nobleman will purchaſe him more eſteem than his coronet, and not take a jot from his dignity. Reſpect is more cheerfully paid to a humble man than it is to the proud. *Oderint dum metuant*, was the ſaying of a haughty emperor; but it is a maxim that will never be admired by him that is ſtudious of real honour.

Prudence ſuggeſts the advantages reſulting from condeſcenſion. The affected reſpect which is paid to ſtately diſtance is neither ſo ſterling nor ſo glorious as that which is the fruit of humility. Though the laws reſtrain the ſallies of inſolence and inſult toward perſons of rank from their inferiors, no law on earth can produce that genuine reverence which comes from the heart, Chains that bow down the body are no fetters for the mind, and till that is ſubdued the triumph is incomplete. This is only a conſequence of the moderation with which a great man bears his exalted ſtation, and the ſole honour that redounds to the man, the common homage being yielded only to his rank, and not belonging to his perſon. There is a double glory in enjoying a bleſſing which is the produce of our own endeavours or merit; and it is not known, till a man is inveſted with honour, whether he deſerves it. If there be an inſuperable deſire of admiration, let the object of it be properly fixed, and the virtues of good-nature, integrity, and condeſcenſion, be ſignalized in queſt of it.

The old obſervation, that inſolence is a foible peculiar to upſtarts, is an inducement that naturally leads to explode it. Thoſe who have been a long time great, or can count a numerous train of illuſtrious anceſtry, are habituated to grandeur; it ſits eaſily on them, and they are not poſſeſſed of the notion of it, as if it were new to them. Pride ſhould conſider this as a mortifying and diſcouraging reflection. The obſervation ſeldom fails of being quoted, when occaſion prompts, and the application of it is familiar to the loweſt capacity, the maxim is ſo univerſally propagated. But the ſame pride that fills a man with an opinion of his own conſequence, rarely deigns to liſten to the promiſed advantages of condeſcenſion.

CURIOUS ACCOUNT *of the* HAMSTER.

THE hamſter (an animal ſcarcely known in this country) belongs to the mus genus, but bears the neareſt reſemblance to that of the myoxus, or marmot. It agrees, however, with both in the conſtruction of its habitation, its way of life, and its general properties. In Gmelin's New Syſtem of Nature, the hamſters make the third general diviſion, called *criceti*: and the animal, which is the ſubject of this paper, is ſtiled the mus

oricetus

oricetus Germanicus, or German hamſter. The males are about ten inches long, and the tail about three: but the females are ſcarcely more than one half of this ſize. The former weigh from twelve to ſixteen ounces each. Uſually the head and back are of a reddiſh brown colour, the cheeks red, the ſides paler, with three white ſpots; the breaſt, upper part of the fore-legs, and belly, are black. But the colour varies much: ſometimes they are found entirely white or yellow; and there is a ſpecies which is almoſt entirely black. But what is moſt worthy of obſervation in this animal are, its feet, its teeth, and its cheek-pouches.

The hamſter uſes his feet to run, dig, and climb with. They are ſhort and ſtrong, having four toes and a claw, inſtead of a fifth toe, on the fore-feet; and five toes on each hind-foot. Its teeth are ſixteen in number; it has two inciſors on each jaw, and three grinders on each ſide. The grinders ſerve only to chew with; but the fore-teeth, or inciſors, ſerve not only to ſhell the corn, but alſo as weapons for its defence; and to dig up the earth, where it is too hard for its claws alone.

The cheek-pouches are two ſkinny bags, proceeding from the jaw, above the neck and ſhoulders, and afterward ſloping a little toward the ſpine. They lie encloſed between the muſcles and the outward ſkin. On the outſide, theſe pouches are membranous, ſmooth, and ſhining: and in the inſide, there are a great many glands which ſecrete a fluid, which ſerves to keep the parts flexible, and to reſiſt any accidents which might be occaſioned by the roughneſs of particular ſeeds. The hamſter uſes theſe pouches to collect and carry home the corn: and they are ſo large as to contain an ounce and a half of corn at once: which, on his return to his den, the animal empties, by ſtroking and ſqueezing them with his fore-feet, beginning behind, and preſſing forward toward the mouth. When a hamſter is met with his cheek pouches full of corn, he may be eaſily taken with the hand, without the riſk of being bitten; for while his pouches are full, he has not the free uſe of his jaws: but if he be allowed a little time, he ſoon empties his pouches, as related above, and raiſing himſelf on his hind-legs, ſtands boldly on his defence, or darts on his enemy.

This animal lives always in the corn-fields. Here it forms itſelf a ſubterraneous burrow, divided into ſeveral apartments; with two holes leading from the ſurface: one is perpendicular, at which it goes in, and comes out: and the other, where it lodges its excrement, is oblique, that the wet may the more readily run off. One part of this ſubterraneous dwelling, divided into ſeveral apartments, is the ſtorehouſe where it lays up its winter proviſions of corn, beans, peas, vetches, linſeed, &c. but each ſpecies of grain is kept by itſelf, in a ſeparate cell. The chambers, where themſelves and young lodge, are lined with

ſtraw or graſs. The old ones dig their chambers ſeveral feet deep, but thoſe of the young ſcarcely ever exceed one foot in depth. In theſe holes the animal dwells alone, for it has a rooted enmity againſt all other creatures, and even againſt thoſe of its own ſpecies, the females not excepted. When two hamſters encounter, one of them certainly falls, and the weaker is devoured by the conqueror.

The hamſter lies by day in his den, ſtill and quiet; and in the duſk of the evening he comes out, and runs about till midnight: he then retires again into his hole, and continues quiet till about an hour before day-break; then he comes out once more, and runs about till ſun-riſing.

The hamſter's manner of living is conſiderably diverſified: like various other animals, he becomes torpid in winter, and continues in that ſtate the greater part of the cold ſeaſon. The male awakes about the middle of February, and the female in March. They do not leave their holes immediately on their recovery from this torpid ſtate, but continue quiet till they have conſumed the remains of their proviſions, which amounts often to one-third of the whole: then, the former opening his hole in March, the latter in April, they come out, return to their former manner of life, and go about ſeeking herbs.

It cannot be denied that the hamſter is a very deſtructive creature. Some years they are ſo numerous as to occaſion a dearth by their immenſe conſumption of corn. In one year 11,000 ſkins, in a ſecond 54,000, and in a third 80,000, were brought to the town-houſe of Gotha, to receive a reward for their deſtruction. The hamſter lives a conſiderable time, and multiplies prodigiouſly. The female brings forth twice or thrice in the year, and her litter is never fewer than ſix; but oftener from ſixteen to eighteen. The growth of the young is very rapid: at fifteen days old they begin to dig the earth; and in about three weeks they are capable of ſubſiſting independently of the dam.

The hamſter is preyed on by ſeveral animals, but the ferret ſeems ordained to be its moſt inveterate enemy. It is not ſo ſtrong as the hamſter, but it is much more active and cunning; and by theſe means it prevails over him. In ſummer and autumn, he is the ferret's food. He purſues him, even into his den, and kills him there; and having thus gained the victory, he makes it his own habitation. From this he goes out a hamſter-hunting, and having found, he ſeizes him ſo ſtrongly, that he drags him away and preys upon him.

Deſcription of a Race of Mortals, called Bucks.

THERE are a race of mortals in this country, who go by the name of *bucks*. On what pretence they uſurp the name of

of that noble animal, 'tis hard to ſay, there being both beaſts and birds of very different ſpecies, by whoſe names they would be much more aptly characterized. Be this, however, as it will, bucks they are called. There are alſo two ſpecies of laughter: one derived from a free and ſocial ſpirit, which through every part of it is harmleſs and inoffenſive; the other, founded on inſolence and pride, and which is gall and bitterneſs from beginning to end. It is to this laſt ſpecies of laughter that the bucks are commonly prone. I have beheld a herd of theſe, at the moſt ſerious ſcenes of a fine tragedy, laugh with ſuch an inſolent loudneſs that the audience, who were all attention, have not been able to hear a word.

And what has been the occaſion? A ſtupid criticiſm of their own upon the performance, ſuch a witticiſm, as a merry-andrew of reputation would have been aſhamed of. Theſe ſame bucks have I ſeen ſtand the high humour of Falſtaff, with as much inſenſibility, as if they had not been bucks, but pigs of lead. Indeed, ſo great is their dullneſs, ſo incorrigible their inſolence, ſo ready is their malevolent grin to diſplay itſelf on every occaſion, ſuch enemies are they to all that is decent, to all that is orderly, to all that is even elegant and truly polite, that if ever knight-errants were to riſe again, I could wiſh they would ariſe, to extirpate this race; to drive them from the face of the earth; to force them "to the dogs." That ſuch as theſe are no hearers, is paſt diſpute. They have not only no *ears* to hear; but they have neither *heads* to hear, nor *hearts* to hear. Humanity and candour are ſtrangers to their breaſts.

Let us mark the audience deſcribed by Horace—"I ſaw," ſays he, "Bacchus in the remote rocks teaching verſes: I ſaw the nymphs learning, and the ears of the goat-footed ſatyr erect." How different as to its behaviour is this antique audience from a modern one? For though the Britiſh fair may be well ſaid to equal the faireſt nymphs of antiquity, and though our beaux with their groteſque viſages moſt exactly reſemble the ſatyrs, yet 'tis to be feared our ladies ſeldom attend (like the nymphs) ſo as to learn: and that our beaux ſeldom prick up their ears, to liſten (like the ſatyrs) to any thing worth attention.

The concluſion of the whole is, that to make a perfect hearer there muſt three things concur; that is ſay, judgment, attention, and humanity.

A REFLECTION.

BE careful not to diſturb your neighbour's peace by wanton folly. Unneceſſarily to leſſen a fellow creature's happineſs is highly criminal in the eyes of God.

Pleaſing INSTANCE *of* NAVAL GENEROSITY.

IN the Mediterranean fleet it was the cuſtom, by way of ſaving all the bread poſſible, to allow the men threepence per pound for all of their allowance that they left unconſumed. The ſum due to the ſeamen of the Ajax, of 74 guns, the Hon. Captain Cochrane, on account of this ſaving, was about 70l. A ſhort time ſince the ſhip was paid at Portſmouth, and they had to receive this money. One ſeaman (the only one who had ſuffered in this way on board that ſhip) had loſt his ſight in Egypt: the reſt of the crew generouſly made him a preſent of the whole of the above ſum.

Copy of a Hand-bill actually printed and diſperſed in the Neighbourhood of Beamiſter.

I. N. BARTEN an Eminant Sergen and apotchery and ſeven ſon of a ſeven ſon from Scotland who haath Prateed phsick far Therty Eyears and upwards and hath Travled thro franse ſpaine Itteley and amerrica for Exparience Cures the folloing forders viz, Cansers Kings Evils white swoolings ulsered sor Leg ſcurvey In any part of the Bodey with out any Corosire Sublement or Disagreable Draught the Rumatisom or Rumdick gout and gives Such releif In the Rigular gout that No Ladey Nor Jentelman Is Ever Laid up in It And Cures the tooth ake while Present and fasens thoſe that are Looce and makes them as white as Ivory feſtoryies worms in men women and Children with one Paper of his Emperial worm poudar he takes wens from any Part of the Bodey with eas and Saftey and Blotches or ampers from the face or marfuls he takes of Velms from the Eyies with out pain and gidneſs from the head ſhorsneſs of Breath or any pain in the Stomack as matick Complaint or any Complaint ever so Long standing If Curable.

N: B he will wait on any Ladey or Jentleman at there hous gives advica gratice and Cures fets If ever ſo long Standing

Dated the 13th. of April 1802.

Anſwer, by J. B. Chivers, Teacher of the Mathematics, St. Auſtle, to Curioſus's Queſtion, inſerted December 28, 1801.

SINCE the heighe of the pyramid, and the ſide of its baſe are given, the inclination of the ſlant ſide to the horizon will be found, by trigonometry, to be 53° 14′. Hence it is evident that 5 hours, 16 minutes, and 48 ſeconds, is the exact time of the pyramids mentioned in the queſtion appearing without a ſhadow.

Anſwer, by J. Whittle, of Upway, to Mr. Selwyn's Enigma, inſerted January 18.

WHEN once the BREATH of man is gone,
His days are told, his life is done.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. Sweetman, of Lyme.

Anſwer, by J. Sweetman, near Lyme, to W. England's Enigma, inſerted March 8.

ITS THOUGHT that your enigma means,
Which brings to mind moſt wondrous ſcenes.

*** We have received the like anſwer from G. England, of Lyme; and J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes.

Anſwer, by Recluſe, of Awliſcombe, to H. H. Tullidge's Rebus, inſerted March 8.

A MOOR-HEN was the bird conceal'd,
And now your rebus is reveal'd.

†‡† We have received the like anſwer from W. Mann, S. Perkins, and W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; R. Maffett, of Saltaſh; J. Whittle, of Upway; T. Adey, and J. Lewis, of Poole; John Squance, Egbert Moon, H. Humphreys, W. Strong, and R. Sowdon, of Exeter; Serjeant Aſh, of the Exminſter Volunteers; J. Sweetman, near Lyme; G. England, of Lyme; J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; and Juvenis, of Dorcheſter.

A REBUS, *by J. Smith, of Exeter.*

THE miſer's god firſt, gents. explain;
A bard who ſung immortal ſtrains;
The man who ſoar'd with waxen wings;
A nymph whoſe beauty Ovid ſings;
A noble Britiſh admiral name;
And what gain'd Doctor Johnſon fame;
Laſtly, what paves the road to Heav'n:
Join theſe—a correſpondent's giv'n.

A CHARADE, *by J. French, of St. Auſtle.*

'TWAS in the pleaſant month of May
With Mary oft I rov'd,
To hear what ſhe would have to ſay
Unto my tales of love.

Within my bower's ſweet retreat
I took my lovely fair,
And to the boſom of my ſweet
I preſs'd my firſt with care.

Delightful next! with joy I view
Gay Flora beauteous crown'd,
Array'd in all her lovely hue,
Diffuſing ſweets around.

But ah! how ſoon doth diſappear
The grandeur of my whole,
Short as the date of numerous years,
Or like a parchment's ſcroll.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Elegy on the Death of BELLE, *a favourite Dog, who was accidentally ſtrangled.*

NO ſolemn hearſe bedeck'd with ſable plumes,
No vain eſcutcheons, no inſcriptive tombs,
Shall wake my muſe. Their ſplendours I reſign,
And thou, dear Belle! ſhalt claim my plaintive line.
Poor dog farewell! To this ſad boſom dear,
E'en now remembrance ſwells the ſilent tear.
No more I view thee, at the dawn of day,
(For ever faithful as for ever gay)
Along the mead with cautious ſteps repair,
To trace the ſcent, and ſpring the artful hare.
Oft as I wander o'er the early dew,
I think on thee, and feel thy loſs anew;
And oft I call, but call, alas! in vain,
Till "Belle!" "Belle!" "Belle!" reſound along the plain.
No more, extended by the parlour fire,
Thy gloſſy coat my rapt'ur'd eyes admire;
No more thy tricks the youthful throng delight—
Tricks, charms, and all, are ſunk in endleſs night.

Full oft ſome pig around the garden ſcours,
Crops the young greens, and ſpoils the blooming flow'rs,
With brandiſh'd broomſtick at his heels I fly
To drive the plunderer to his native ſty;
But oft my art, and all my ſtrength is vain,
He runs to other beds, and crops again.
Wer't thou alive, dear Belle, no pigs would dare
Within the garden's ſhaded walks appear;
Such nimble limbs, and piercing notes were thine,
They kept us ſafe from *greater thieves than ſwine.*

At morn or eve, whene'er I chance to ſtray
Beneath the fir* that ſhades thy mouldering clay;
Should ſome ſoft breeze one dewy ozier bend,
The ſparkling drops in brilliant ſhow'rs deſcend;
Thro' fancy's glaſs the magic ſcene I ſee,
The breeze as ſighs, the dew as tears for thee.
Full many a flow'r beſide the limpid ſtream
Diſtends its bloſſom to the morning beam;
But ere mild eve diſplays her ſoothing ſhade,
'Mid pois'nous weeds its faded charms are laid.
So thou, poor Belle, in youth's delightful day,
Art ſnatch'd, alas! like ſome ſweet flow'r away;
In morn a ſprightly dog—at eve a lump of clay.

Devonſhire. EDWIN.

* The body was interred under a large fir tree.

ALBERTO.

LO! where yon abbey, mould'ring in the duſt,
Once rear'd to heav'n above its tow'ring head,

Where

Where many a ſhrine and monumental buſt
Declar'd the virtues of the ſilent dead.

There ſad Alberto, penſive and forlorn,
Beneath a melancholy yew tree's ſhade,
Pour'd forth his ſorrows o'er Matilda's urn,
And thus in tears the hapleſs mourner ſaid:

" Ye deſtinies! and will ye never ceaſe
" This heart, tho' now depreſs'd with anxious care,
" Ah! will your perſecutions never ceaſe?
" Here end by death my woes and ſad deſpair?

" Reliſt of what I was, by fortune bleſs'd,
" Love threw his pleaſing bandage o'er my eyes,
" To marriage long Matilda fair I preſs'd,
" At length I gain'd—what now my fate denies!

" Now ſeven long months ſhe bleſs'd me with her love,
" My life, I thought, was free from ev'ry woe,
" Alas! how frail the bleſſings from above,
" How full of miſery this ſtate below!

" That year was one continued ſcene of bliſs,
" Matilda gave me ſoon a lovely boy,
" Nought I requeſted of the gods but this,
" Now nought was wanting to complete my joy.

" When ah! my adverſe fates my darling ſtole,
" And nipp'd the lovely roſebud in its prime;
" Matilda, deareſt partner of my ſoul!
" To grief a victim fell before her time.

" In vain for me now Phœbus ſheds his rays,
" Vain are to me the joys of wealth and pow'r,
" An unſubſtantial, momentary blaze,
" That fades to night, ev'n in its natal hour.

" Beauty ſhall weep Matilda's early fate,
" And pity ſhed the voluntary tear,
" Ev'n thick lipp'd, muſing melancholy wait,
" The tender tale of hapleſs loves to hear.

" Now all around is huſh'd, ſerene, and ſtill,
" Alone thro' trackleſs paths I wander ſlow,
" Save echo, which repeats in accents ſhrill,
" What art thou now, ſad type of human woe!"

" Around thy tomb ſhall vernal flow'rs be ſpread,
" Thy endleſs praiſe ſhall choral bards recite;
" Shall wanton zephyrs, from thy clay-cold bed,
" Waft thee to ſhades of everlaſting light.

" Then why delay? I'll haſte to meet thee there,
" Rob'd in the majeſty of heav'nly grace,
" Soon ſhall I recognize my lovely fair
" By the angelic ſmile that decks her face.

" Adieu, thou dreary pile, ye mould'ring walls,
" Adieu, Silene, to thy ſilver light,
" I go—I follow where Matilda calls—"
He ſpoke, and ſunk into eternal night.

EPIGRAM.

QUOTH Mark to his wife, " I get tir'd of life;
" Old age, I feel faſt coming on:"
His rib then reply'd " I'm beſpoke for a bride,
" So I wiſh in my heart you were gone."